

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Comparing higher education choices

There are a lot of options for continuing your education after you graduate from high school. With so many choices to consider, it's important to have information you need to decide what might work well for you.

Instructions

- 1 Visit the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard website (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>) to find colleges and universities near you.
- 2 Choose two schools to compare and contrast.
- 3 Answer the reflection questions.

Step 1. Do a college search

The College Scorecard site lets you to sort and filter schools based on features that are important to you. This makes it easier to compare schools and decide which one makes the most sense for you. You can begin by searching for schools based on location. Here are a few tips:

- Enter your zip code and search for schools within 100 miles of your home.
- You also can search for schools in your state.

Step 2. Compare schools

- Select two schools to compare.
- Enter information about the schools in the table on the next page.

CHALLENGE

Select one public and one private school. To figure this out, click on the school and look at the icons that appear below the school name.



	Name of school 1:	Name of school 2:
Two-year or four-year school?		
Public or private?		
Student population size		
Average annual cost (for the latest year data were available)		
Overall graduation rate		
SAT/ACT scores (typical student scores)		
Majors that look interesting to you		

Reflection questions

1. What information surprised you about the two schools you researched?
2. Which school would you like to learn more about? Why?
3. Cost is an important thing to think about when choosing a college. What are some things you could do now to prepare for paying for college when you finish high school?